

NEW METHODIST CHURCH.

OPENED BY THE GOVERNOR.

Long before the hour appointed for the official opening of the Graceville Methodist Church by his Excellency the Governor (Lieut.-General Sir John Goodwin, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.), a crowd of people had assembled in and around the church grounds which face the junction of Oxley-road and Verney-road, Graceville. His Excellency, who was accompanied by Lady Goodwin, and attended by Lieut.-Colonel Worthington Wilmer (private secretary), was met by the Rev. W. H. Greenwood (circuit minister) and Mrs. Greenwood, and was escorted to the porch entrance of the church, which stands beneath the arresting spire, towering 88ft. high, through a guard of honour formed by the members of the Order of Knights and Girl Comrades, in regalia, the Christian Endeavour Society, and the scholars of the Sunday school, under Mr. Peter Daniels (superintendent), and the teachers of the Sunday school. After the singing of the National Anthem by the massed concourse assembled, Sir John and Lady Goodwin were welcomed by the Revs. Albert Taylor and T. R. Thurlow, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Taylor, and Messrs. W. T. Smillie, J. Williams, V. Davis, R. Daniels, W. J. Watson, and H. B. White (trustees of the church). Lady Goodwin, who wore a frock of soft rose beige marlette with a small straw hat in a harmonising shade, was presented with a bouquet of roses and carnations, set in red tulle, and tied with silver streamers, by little Miss Shirley Daniels. The prayer of invocation was offered by the Rev. T. R. Thurlow.

The Rev. Greenwood, thanking his Excellency for his presence there that afternoon, said that the beautiful edifice they were there to have opened and dedicated was the consummation of the labours that had been the fruit of the vision of Mr. Walter Taylor, the architect and builder.

GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

Sir John Goodwin said that he felt very proud, very privileged, and very honoured in having been asked to open the doors of this beautiful church. "This church reflects great credit on the builder, and is an honour to the Methodist congregation of Graceville," he added. His Excellency expressed the wish that the church would remain a living monument to the wide vision, high courage, and self-sacrificing spirit of those who had undertaken the task. He thanked them all for their expressions of loyalty, and for the very cordial welcome extended to Lady Goodwin and himself.

In handing the key to his Excellency, Mr. Walter Taylor presented Sir John Goodwin with a golden key, suitably inscribed, a replica of the church key, as a token of remembrance for the afternoon's ceremony.

DEDICATION SERVICE.

DEDICATION SERVICE.

The dedication service, which followed, was conducted by the Revs. W. H. Greenwood, Albert Taylor, and W. Brown, and was in its very simplicity inspiring. The Rev. Albert Taylor chose the 18th verse of the first chapter of Colossians for the text of his sermon: "That in all things He might have the pre-eminence." The function of the Christian Church, the preacher said, was to teach and exemplify ethically high ideals. He joined with his fellow brethren in the ministry of the church, many of whom were present at the service, in congratulating the Graceville congregation on the very fine church building they now had in which to worship.

Appropriate music was rendered by the combined Sherwood and Graceville choirs, under the conductorship of Mr. J. Roberts (choirmaster). In the large congregation present were representatives from the metropolitan circuits of the Methodist Church, including the Revs. D. S. Brumwell, O.B.E., W. S. Sanders, A. E. Fox, B. Frederick, R. P. Pope, W. Little, W. Brown, T. R. Thurlow, and H. H. Triggs, M.A., B.D. (Master of King's College), S. Pitt (Inverell), Brian Cavanaugh (Sherwood Presbyterian Church), and Mr. Thos. Nimmo, M.L.A.

THE BUILDING.

The design has been carried out in the perpendicular Gothic style of architecture, taken from the period A.D. 1377 to 1547, and is constructed of pre-cast concrete. The extreme dimensions of the building, including three vestries and porch entrance, are 92ft. long by 64ft. wide, at the transepts. The exterior walls are constructed of 34 stout buttresses, representing the 34 years of the life of Christ on earth. The walls between the main buttresses are divided into seven panels, three of which admit light into the building. There are three windows in each bay; in all 41 leaded light windows in varying colours are throughout the building. There is one main entrance and four corner entrances into the church, the plan of which represents a cross, with the nave at the foot, the choir platform at the head, and the transepts on each side. From the massive concrete Gothic arch, 25ft. high, two aisles lead to the stewards' vestries, with rows of seats up to the nave, giving seating accommodation for 350 persons. On the left of the porch entrance, immediately inside the church, is placed a tablet bearing the inscription, "This tablet is erected to the Glory of God, in grateful commemoration of the devoted leadership, professional skill, and consecrated generosity shown by Walter Taylor, Esq., in the building of this Church, November, 1930."